

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 071034Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 602

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, VS, SL

SUBJ: GVN FON MIN VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE

REF: A. FREETOWN 026 B. BANJUL 016 C. SAIGON 108 D. FREETOWN 022

E. FREETOWN 2458

1. GVN FONMIN VUONG VAN BAC DEPARTING FREETOWN MORNING
JANUARY 7 AFTER THREE DAY VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE. CONFIRMING
ITINERARY REPORTED IN REF B, FONMIN TOLD EMBASSY JANUARY 7
HE PROCEEDING TO RABAT FOR VISIT ALREADY ARRANGED THERE
WHICH HE WILL COMPLETE UNLESS HE RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS
FROM SAIGON TO FURTHER EXPEDITE RETURN HOME. FROM RABAT
FONMIN WILL TRANSIT LONDON ENROUTE SAIGON. FONMIN CONFIRMED
THAT IN ADDITION CANCELLATION
ZAIRE VISIT REPORTED REF A, ADVANCED RETURN TO SAIGON
MEANS PROPOSED VISIT TO LIBERIA (REF C) OFF AT LEAST FOR
TIME BEING.

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2. DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE, FONMIN TOLD ME THAT VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE WENT BETTER THAN HE HAD EXPECTED AND HE CAUTIONSLY OPTIMISTIC SOME BENEFIT MAY RESULT. WHILE HE NOT ABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT STEVENS, WHO HE WAS TOLD WAS "OUT OF TOWN" (ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT STEVENS IN FACT OUT OF TOWN); BAC SAID THE HAD VERY CORDIAL HOUR-LONG TALK WITH FONMIN LUKE AND THAT LUKE SUBSEQUENTLY HOSTED DINNER IN HIS HONOR. BAC SAID HE STRESSED THREE POINTS WITH LUKE: GVN POLICY IS ONE OF PEACE, FULLY SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENTS, IN CONTRAST ACTIONS OF OTHER SIDE; GVN POLICY IS ONE OF INDEPENDENCE WITH NO FORMAL ALLIANCES OR FOREIGN TROOPS OR BASES IN COUNTRY AND READY FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER STATES; AND GVN SUPPORTS AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND HAS NO RELATIONS WITH WHITE MINORITY REGIMES.

3. BAC SAID LUKE, BOTH IN CONVERSATION AND IN DINNER TOAST, EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR GVN POSITION ON PARIS AGREEMENTS. ACCORDING BAC, LUKE RESPONDED TO OFFER OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY SAYING HE PERSONALLY FAVORED THEM AND WOULD REPORT OFFER TO PRESIDENT AND CABINET AND INVITING BAC TO CONVINCE OTHER GOSL MINISTERS PRESENT AT DINNER TO SUPPORT EFFORT IN CABINET.

4. COMMENT: WHILE VISIT CORDIAL, EMBASSY STILL NOT OPTIMISTIC ACTUAL GOSL STANCE LIKELY BE CHANGED FROM OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF PRG (REF E). LUKE IS VERY PLEASANT IN CONVERSATIONS BUT HE HAS A RECORD OF IMPLYING OR MAKING PROMISES, INCLUDING PREVIOUS ONES TO GVN PRIOR ALGIERS NONALIGNED CONFERENCE, WHICH NOT LATER BORNE OUT BY GOSL VOTES IN UNGA OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. EMBASSY CONTINUES BELIEVE THAT GOSL POSITION ON REMOTE ASIAN AFFAIRS LIKELY BE DETERMINED LESS BY MERITS OF ISSUES THAN BY DESIRE BE IN LINE WITH MAJORITY OAU OR NONALIGNED STATES.
SULLIVAN

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